



Press release, 12 May 2016 - Epernay

“RECONCILIATION TRIP”

The Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars project team is planning an annual “Séjour des Réconciliations” (Reconciliation Trip) on the 1st or 2nd weekend of July in the area classified by UNESCO, the 320 towns and villages making up the historic Champagne wine region. Taking place THROUGHOUT CHAMPAGNE and open to everyone, this MAJOR HOSPITALITY EVENT will be developed year by year through cultural events, shows, concerts, lectures, social gatherings and gastronomy, all focused on the theme of reconciliation. The highlight of this weekend will be the “Walk of Reconciliation”.

“WALK OF RECONCILIATION”

1st edition Sunday 10 July 2016

A walk through Champagne, bringing people from around the world together in reconciliation. Whether this relates to the recent or distant past, a family member or a geopolitical or historical connection, reconciliations large and small will take place throughout the course of a “Reconciliation Trip” to Champagne, underpinned by the wine of celebration and UNESCO values.

On 4 July 2015, the Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars were inscribed on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List. To mark this first anniversary, the Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars – World Heritage project team wished to organise an event for the general public, giving everyone an opportunity to become familiar with UNESCO values.

The theme for this year is a walk through the vineyards and villages where everyone can discover or rediscover part of the site inscribed on the World Heritage List and, at a wider level, explore the signification of the Outstanding Universal Value of this chosen area.

The driving force behind this event is champagne and the symbols of peace and reconciliation it represents. These symbols link in with UNESCO's mission to build peace in the minds of men and women by means of education, science and culture. Legitimate symbols, too, for a region ravaged by conflicts and the site of the Franco-German reconciliation on 8 July 1962, at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Reims – itself included on the World Heritage List in 1991 –

in the presence of Charles de Gaulle, President of the French Republic and Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor of the German Federal Republic.

At a wider level, champagne is often associated with moments of rebirth and fraternity between nations and it is for this reason the walk has been named the Walk of Reconciliation!

Come and celebrate your reconciliation in Champagne!

The 1st in a long series...

This first anniversary will be marked by the 1st edition of this Walk of Reconciliation. However, working with its partners, the Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars – World Heritage project team hopes to develop this event for the long-term! This year's rallying point is Hautvillers, a commune in the Marne département. Next year's focus could be the Aube, followed by the Haute-Marne and Aisne! All the districts within the area recognised by UNESCO will host the event over the coming years. At the end of every Walk of Reconciliation, a relay emblem will be presented to the communes hosting the next edition.

Scheduled for 10 July are two circuits of 11 and 21 km respectively, departing from Hautvillers from 9.30 am onwards. Various events will take place along the route, aimed at creating a fun awareness of this World Heritage Site and, who knows, perhaps discovering something new about it. Entertainment amidst the vines from a theatre company, landscape observation, a mobile exhibition on preserving and protecting the region, an exhibition on the World Heritage inscription, UNESCO and its other World Heritage sites... there's something for everyone to enjoy! An anniversary marked by friendship, where visitors can take the time to discover or rediscover the region and its riches and enjoy a reconciliation centred around its cultural heritage.

“RECONCILIATION BUBBLES”

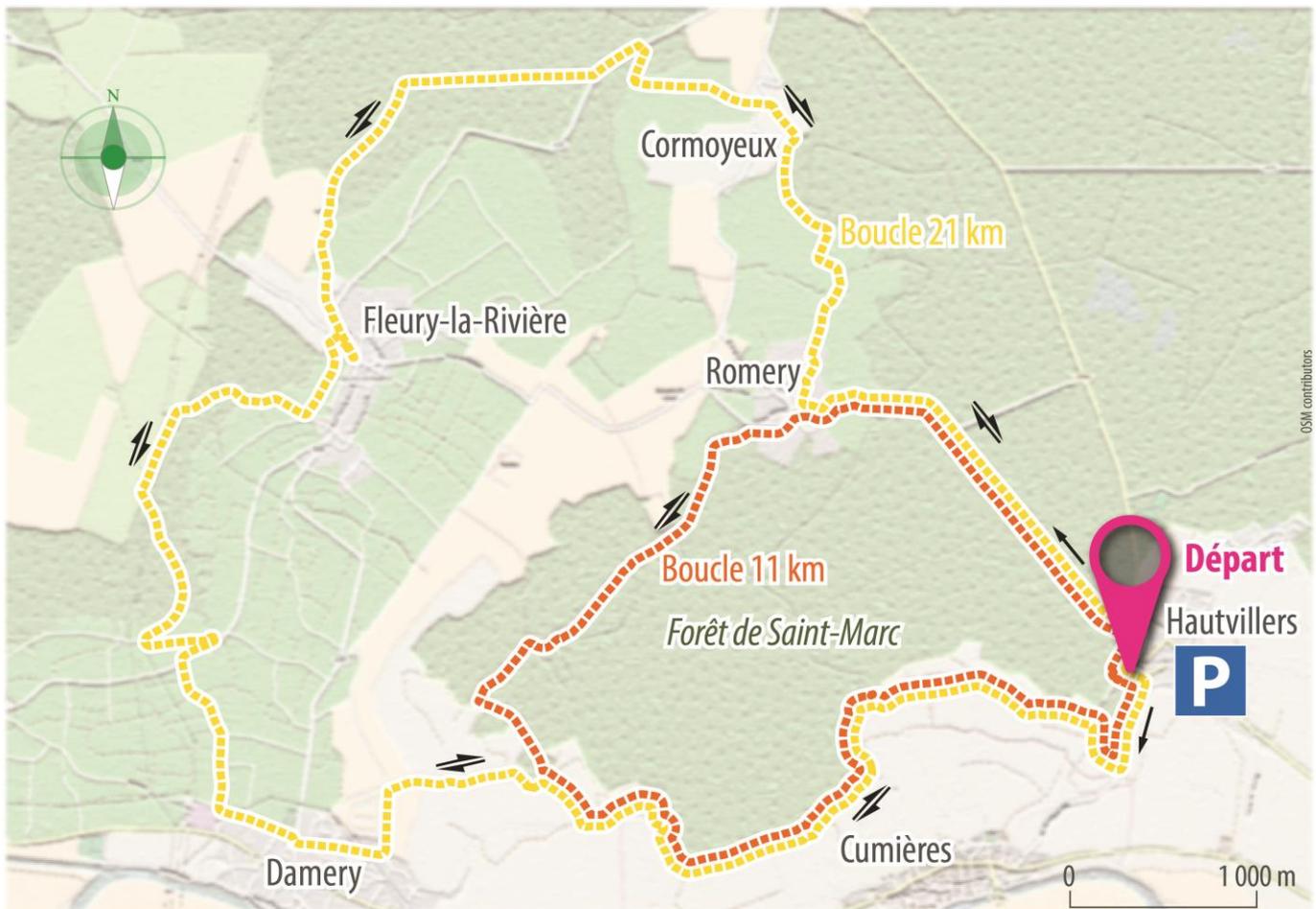
During this “Reconciliation Trip”, the Champagne Slopes, Houses and Cellars project team and its scientific committee will be awarding copies of “Reconciliation Bubbles”, a sculpture by artist Mauro Corda who is from the Champagne region. These will be awarded to individuals who have worked to promote reconciliation.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



• **Champagne Hillside,
Houses and Cellars**
• inscribed on the World
• Heritage List in 2015



**1ST WALKING OF
RECONCILIATION**
SUNDAY 10 JULY 2016

Under the authority of the
Champagne Hillside, Houses and
Cellars - World Heritage project

Departure Hautvillers 9.30am onwards
Final departure for the 21km circuit: 11am
Final departure for the 11km circuit: 1.30pm
Option to walk in either direction from Hautvillers: towards
Romery or Cumières, according to preference.

A presentation pack about the event will be available at the next
press briefing.

Photo credits: Michel Jolyot and Michel Guillard

Champagne Hillside, Houses and Cellars – World Heritage project team

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